What is claimed is:

1.   1.   A method for securing an access provider, the method comprising:
2   monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a partially-
3   completed connection transaction; and
4   terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the partially-
5   completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a
6   threshold period of time.

1   2.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises:
2   detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access requestor;
3   and
4   measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection transaction
5   remains in existence.

1   3.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the monitoring further comprises
2   comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

1   4.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting
2   partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a
3   connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1   5.   The method as in claim 4, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting
2   partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a
3   connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return address of
4   the access requestor.

1   6.   The method as in claim 5, wherein the monitoring comprises detecting
2   partially-completed connection transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol
3   address that differs from the actual return address of the access requestor.

1   7.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring
2   communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP communications for
3   partially-completed connection transactions.

1   8.   The method as in claim 7, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring a

2   process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at least one access

3   provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1   9.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the monitoring comprises monitoring

2   communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-completed connection

3   transactions.

1   10.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the terminating comprises resetting a

2   communication port located on the at least one access provider.

1   11.   The method as in claim 1, wherein the threshold period of time is configurable

2   such that the terminating comprises terminating the partially-completed connection

3   transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a

4   period of time that exceeds a configurable threshold period of time.

1   12.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the

2   access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed

3   connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1   13.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the

2   access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed

3   connection transactions between at least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1   14.   The method as in claim 2, wherein the access requestor is a client and the

2   access provider is a host such that the monitoring comprises detecting partially-completed

3   connection transactions between a plurality of clients and at least one host.

1   15.   A system for securing an access provider, comprising:

2   means for monitoring communications with at least one access provider for a

3   partially-completed connection transaction; and

4   means for terminating the partially-completed connection transaction when the

5   partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence for a period of time that

6   exceeds a threshold period of time.

1   16.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises:

2   means for detecting partially-completed connection transactions initiated by an access

3   requestor;

4   means for measuring the period of time that a partially-completed connection

5   transaction remains in existence; and

6   means for comparing the period of time with the threshold period of time.

1   17.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means

2   for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor

3   initiates a connection transaction and the access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means

2   for detecting partially-completed connection transactions that occur when an access requestor

3   initiates a connection transaction based on a return address that differs from an actual return

4   address of the access requestor.

1   19.   The system of claim 15, wherein the means for monitoring comprises means

2   for monitoring communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP

3   communications for partially-completed connection transactions whereby an access requestor

4   sends a SYN request and the at least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1   20.   The system of claim 16, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the means for monitoring comprises means for detecting partially-

3   completed connection transactions between at least one client and at least one host.

1   21.   A system for securing an access provider, comprising:

2   a monitoring component that is structured and arranged to monitor communications

3   with at least one access provider for a partially-completed connection transaction; and

4   a terminating component that is structured and arranged to terminate the partially-

5   completed connection transaction when the partially-completed connection transaction

6   remains in existence for a period of time that exceeds a threshold period of time.

1   22.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises:

2   a detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed

3   connection transactions initiated by an access requestor; and

4   a measuring component that is structured and arranged to measure the period of time

5   that a partially-completed connection transaction remains in existence.

1   23.   The system of claim 22, wherein the monitoring component further comprises

2   a comparing component that is structured and arranged to compare the period of time with

3   the threshold period of time.

1   24.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component comprises a

2   detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection

3   transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction and the

4   access requestor subsequently fails to send a reply.

1   25.   The system of claim 24, wherein the monitoring component comprises a

2   detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection

3   transactions that occur when an access requestor initiates a connection transaction based on a

4   return address that differs from an actual return address of the access requestor.

1   26.   The system of claim 25, wherein the monitoring component comprises a

2   detection component that is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection

3   transactions wherein the return address is an Internet protocol address that differs from the

4   actual return address of the access requestor.

1   27.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and

2   arranged to monitor communications with the at least one access provider based on TCP

3   communications for partially-completed connection transactions.

1   28.   The system of claim 27, wherein the monitoring component is structured and

2   arranged to monitor a process whereby an access requestor sends a SYN request and the at

3   least one access provider sends a SYN acknowledgement.

1   29.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component is structured and

2   arranged to monitor communications with a plurality of access providers for partially-

3   completed connection transactions.

1   30.   The system of claim 21, wherein the terminating component comprises a reset

2   component that is structured and arranged to reset a communication port located on the at

3   least one access provider.

1   31.   The system of claim 21, wherein the threshold period of time is a configurable

2   threshold period of time.

1   32.   The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that

3   is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at

4   least one client and at least one host.

1   33.   The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that

3   is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between at

4   least one client and a plurality of hosts.

1   34.   The system of claim 22, wherein the access requestor is a client and the access

2   provider is a host such that the monitoring component comprises a detection component that

3   is structured and arranged to detect partially-completed connection transactions between a

4   plurality of clients and at least one host.

1   35.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the

2   terminating component are included in a switch that receives communications from a host

3   computer system.

1   36.   The system of claim 21, wherein the monitoring component and the

2   terminating component are included in a host computer system that receives communications

3   from a switch.